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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,431	11/28/2003	Takayuki Kondo	117603	7372
25944	7590	09/14/2005		
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			EXAMINER PEACE, RHONDA S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2874	

DATE MAILED: 09/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted on ~~3/26/2005~~ and 11/28/2003 *AB*
under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6, 9, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Leone et al (US 5793909).

Pertaining to claim 1, Leone et al (US 5793909) discloses an optical monitoring and test access module comprising a plurality of circuit blocks **16a** and **18b**, and several optical waveguides **52** and **74**, as well as intra-connective waveguides upon each circuit block **16a** and **18b** which can be seen in Figure 3 (Figure 2-3, column 5 lines 25-39).

Note that only block **16a** is shown within Figure 3, for simplicity purposes. These waveguides serve to transmit signals within each of the blocks **16a** and **18b**, as well as in between the blocks **16a** and **18b**. In addition, each circuit block is provided with wavelength division multiplexers **124**, **144**, and **148**, which divide the incoming signal from input **32** into multiple wavelengths, allowing multiple wavelengths to be transmitted

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within the block **16a**, as well as from block **16a** to block **18b** (Figures 2-3, column 5 lines 44-50 and column 7 lines 9-20). This module is provided with an electrical backplane **72** and is capable of being mounted upon an integrated circuit chip (column 5 lines 51-56).

With regards to claim 2, Leone et al shows that each of the circuit blocks **16a** and **18b** are electrically connected to one another via electrical backplane **72**, and optically connected to one another via optical backplane **74** (column 5 lines 31-39, Figure 2).

With respect to claims 3-5, a system of several optical waveguides is used in order to create connections between blocks **16a** and **18b**, as previously mentioned. Waveguide **52** is placed upon the top surface of the circuit blocks, as seen in Figure 2, providing a detour route around each of the blocks **16a** and **18b** (column 5 lines 31-39, Figure 2). In addition, a series of waveguides is placed upon the circuit blocks, as it is illustrated with respect to circuit block **16a** in Figure 3, so as to traverse each block (column 5 lines 25-28, Figure 3).

Speaking to claim 6, Leone et al discloses the use of a LED **154**, formed within the circuit block and electrically connected to it, to emit a light of a predetermined wavelength into an intra-block waveguide to be accepted by microcontroller **128** (column 7 lines 1-3, Figure 3). In addition, Leone et al explains the possible use of a photodiode, formed within the circuit block and electrically connected to it, that receives the above-mentioned light of a predetermined wavelength from microcontroller **128**, and modifies it into an electrical signal (column 6 lines 28-33, Figure 3).

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Addressing claim 9, Leone et al teaches the circuit blocks **16a** and **18b** may contain sensors, which may be considered bio sensors, as they are capable of monitoring their surrounding environment with regards to variables such as temperature (column 8 lines 16-34).

As to claims 14 and 15, as previously discussed, Leone et al discloses the use of a photodiode, which receives optical signals from microprocessor **128**, and transforms these optical signals into electrical signals, thereby making the device an electro-optical device (column 6 lines 28-34). In addition, the presence of the electrical backplane **72**, as well as the capability of merging the device with an integrated circuit chip as previously discussed, means this device can also be considered an electronic apparatus (column 5 lines 51-65).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.

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4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leone et al (US 5793909).

Addressing claim 13, Leone et al discloses the device as described above. However, the substance of claim 13 calls for duplicating the applicant's device as described in claim 1 in the creation of a larger functional system. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the integrated chip device of claim 1 to create a larger system containing a plurality of integrated chip units, since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art (*St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8.).

Claim Objections

Claims 7, 8, and 10-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The applicable prior art discussed within this office action do not disclose, nor do they reasonably suggest, the use of light emitting and light receiving elements being in the form of micro-tile shaped elements. As all of the claims indicated above contain this distinct limitation, it is the opinion of the examiner that this limitation is new over the prior art, and is thereby considered patentable material.

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Conclusion

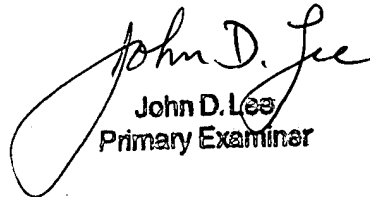
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rhonda S. Peace whose telephone number is (571) 272-8580. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8-5).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney Bovernick can be reached on (571) 272- 2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Rhonda S. Peace
Examiner
Art Unit 2874



John D. Lee
Primary Examiner